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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 12 March 1948

SUBJECT Economic Development

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3. The Government, in a campaign to mobilize resources and accelerate production, is pursuing the following:
 - (a) Conservation of fuel.
 - (b) More efficient utilization of available machinery.
 - (c) Relocation of labor to eliminate local unemployment, which exists despite a general shortage of manpower; and
 - (d) Avoidance of employment in non-productive enterprises.
4. The PPR has tried various means for stimulating industrial production. Workers' councils and competitions were brought into operation with limited success. The "Stakanov system" is being introduced now.
5. Strikes have been suppressed ruthlessly by the police and finally outlawed by the EC RS. Absenteeism and tardiness, however, are still prevalent. During September 1947 an average of 40 thousand miners were absent daily out of a total of 145 thousand employed. During the same period absentees among the 84 thousand steel workers averaged eight thousand.
6. Increases in production and in the quantity of raw materials available have thrown some goods on the Polish market and brought a noticeable reduction in the price of some industrial products. Also helping to drive some prices downward is the Government's obvious determination to compete with private enterprises. PCH's Government-owned stores were recently ordered to lower prices.
7. There is a constant shortage of milk, butter, and flour. During the first half of November 1947 the authorities prohibited sales of butter and milk in privately owned stores. "Krasa" milk, honey, coffee, tea, cosmetics, etc., have appeared on the markets.

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